

**Amendments to the Specifications:**

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

- 5 [0002] The effective supporting of a football, placed on the ground or a tee while it is kicked, is not always readily learned, particularly in the case of a young or novice football player. The younger or novice player is more likely to withdraw support of the football or to flinch, causing the football to fall or move from its preferable position, as the other player approaches the football. This  
10 type of ball movement results in incorrect football supporting techniques that must later be corrected. Thus, the correct placement of the supporter's fingerpad (the palm side of the fingertip) atop the football is an important aspect in correctly supporting a football for kicking by another player and maintaining that correct support. Accordingly, it is desirable to present a training aid which  
15 urges an initial, correct interaction between the supporter's fingerpad and the football which enhances the development of a proper supporting action, and the continuation of that support throughout the kicking action.

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

- 20 [0004] In response to the needs described I have invented a training aid in the form of a modified football and a modified thimble or glove. The modified football has attached at one or both pointed ends a patch or patches having ~~one element of a Velcro.RTM. fastener combination thereon~~ thereon one element of  
25 the loop and hook product sold under the trademark VELCRO.RTM. A flexible thimble or glove has the complementary mating elements of the loop and hook product sold under the trademark VELCRO.RTM. ~~Velcro.RTM. fastener combination~~ only at one fingerpad area thereof. The use of the loop and hook product sold under the trademark VELCRO.RTM. ~~Velcro.RTM.~~ in a patch or  
30 patches only on the pointed end or ends of the football forces the thimble or gloved user to properly support the football only at such patch. The patch or

patches of the loop and hook product sold under the trademark VELCRO.RTM  
~~Velcro.RTM. patch or patches~~ do not interfere with the normal game play by  
ungloved players.

- 5 Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] Turning more particularly to the drawings, FIG. 1 shows the football 1  
modified by attachment of patches 2 at both pointed ends of said football,  
having ~~Velcro.RTM.~~ fastener elements of the loop and hook product sold under  
10 the trademark VELCRO.RTM thereof preferably of the loop-type design, the  
loop type elements being less susceptible to damage or sticking to clothing or  
other items during game play. FIG. 1 also shows the football 1 resting on the  
ground 3 and being supported by the fingerpad of a user's index finger 4 in a  
modified flexible thimble 5, having an attachment of a pad 6 having ~~Velcro~~  
15 ~~RTM~~ fastener elements of the loop and hook product sold under the trademark  
VELCRO.RTM complementary to the fastener elements of the patches 2. The  
complementary ~~Velcro.RTM~~ mating fastener elements of the loop and hook  
product sold under the trademark VELCRO.RTM of the pad 6 are preferably of  
the hook type design.

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Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] An alternate design of the modified football 1 has one ~~Velcro.RTM.~~  
patch of the loop and hook product sold under the trademark VELCRO.RTM,  
25 which the user orients at the top of football 1.

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] FIG. 2 shows the football 1 modified by attachment of patch or patches  
30 2 having ~~Velcro.RTM.~~ fastener elements of the loop and hook product sold  
under the trademark VELCRO.RTM thereof preferably of the loop-type design,

the loop type elements being less susceptible to damage or sticking to clothing or other items during game play. FIG. 2 also shows the football 1 resting on the ground 3 and being supported by the fingerpad of a user's index finger 7 in a modified flexible glove 8, having an attachment of a pad 9 having ~~Velcro-RTM~~ fastener elements of the loop and hook product sold under the trademark  
5 VELCRO.RTM complementary to the fastener elements of the patch or patches 2. The complementary ~~Velcro-RTM~~ mating fastener elements of the loop and hook product sold under the trademark VELCRO.RTM of the pad 9 are preferably of the hook type design.

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Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] The restriction of the ~~Velcro-RTM~~ loop elements of the loop and hook product sold under the trademark VELCRO.RTM to the patch or patches 2 of  
15 the football 1 is important. No ~~Velcro-RTM~~ materials of the loop and hook product sold under the trademark VELCRO.RTM are positioned elsewhere on the football as shown in prior patents (U. S. Pat. No. 5,570,882; U. S. Pat. No. 5,183,263; U. S. Pat. No. 5,195,745). Accordingly, the mating of the ~~Velcro-RTM~~ elements of the loop and hook product sold under the trademark  
20 VELCRO.RTM on the flexible thimble 5 or flexible glove 8 occurs only when the football 1 is properly supported by a thimbled or gloved user at the patch 2 of football 1. This restriction urges an initial proper FIG. 1 or FIG. 2 support of the football 1 by a thimbled or gloved user only at the patch 2 as the thimbled or gloved user cannot obtain the tactile feedback of attachment if supporting the  
25 football elsewhere.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] Accordingly, upon supporting the football 1 by the index finger 4, as  
30 shown in FIG. 1, the ball 1 is properly supported and not unstable as often found with the younger or novice user. Of course, the degree of interaction between

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the mating ~~Velcro~~.RTM. elements of the loop and hook product sold under the trademark VELCRO.RTM on the patch 2 and pad 6 or 9 must be minimal so as to not to interfere with the release of the football 1.